

Appl. No. 10/623,844
Amendment after the Notice of Allowance of June 15, 2005
Attorney Docket K-1851

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted to the Notice of Allowance dated June 15, 2005.

Claims 1-3, 5-17 and 20-22 are currently pending. Applicant hereby respectfully requests that the Examiner enter the above amended claims into the application pursuant to 37 CFR 1.312.

Amendment Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.312:

Claim 5 has been amended as indicated above to correct a minor transcribing error in the Examiner's Amendment dated June 15, 2005. Claim 5 had been amended to depend upon itself. Applicant seeks to amend Claim 5 so that it depends upon Claim 1, as indicated above. It is respectfully submitted that the Amendment is intended not to alter the scope of Claim 5 but rather to correct a minor error in the Claim. It is further respectfully submitted that:

- A. The above Amendment is necessary for proper disclosure or protection of the invention; and
- B. The above Amendment requires no substantial amount of additional work on the part of the Office (MPEP § 714.16).

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner enter the above Amendment as per 37 CFR 1.312. Applicant recognizes that while such an amendment may not be made as a matter of right that such amendments can be entered at the discretion of the Primary Examiner to correct minor errors and other formal matters. It is believed that the Amendment to Claim 5 serves only to correct a minor error and thus can be entered at the discretion of the Examiner.

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Information Disclosure Statement:

Applicant filed a separate Information Disclosure Statement with the Office on 5/16/2005 however Applicant does not have a copy of that statement initialed and signed by the Examiner indicating that the cited references have been considered. Applicant would greatly appreciate the Examiner attaching a signed and initialed copy of that statement to the Examiner's Response to this submission.

As a final matter, if the Examiner has any question or concerns about the above Amendment, Applicant's undersigned representative requests the courtesy of a telephone interview at the Examiner's earliest convenience to discuss the application. Applicant's undersigned representative may be contacted at (724) 539-7265.

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the above Amendment after the Notice Allowance can be entered pursuant to 37 CFR 1.312. Accordingly, entry of the Amendment is respectfully requested.

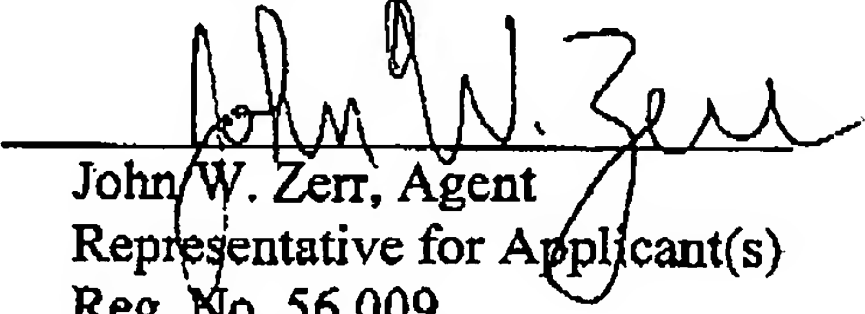
Comments On Statements For Reasons For Allowance

Applicant gratefully acknowledges having received the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance. Entry of the Statement into the record should not be construed as any agreement with or acquiescence in the reasoning stated by the Examiner. Each of the claims stands on its own merits and is patentable because of the combination it recites. The Examiner's Statement was not prepared by Applicant and only contains the Examiner's own positions in one or more reasons for allowability. Thus, any interpretation with respect to the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance should not be imputed to the Applicant.

Respectfully submitted,

Kennametal Inc.
P. O. Box 231
Latrobe, PA 15650
(724) 539-7265 Phone

(724) 539-5903 Fax


John W. Zerr, Agent
Representative for Applicant(s)
Reg. No. 56,009
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